

MEMORANDUM IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 45th ANNIVERSARY
OF THE SISTER STATE RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN
THE STATE OF WASHINGTON, U. S. A. AND HYOGO PREFECTURE, JAPAN

The State of Washington, U. S. A. and Hyogo Prefecture, Japan established a sister state relationship on October 22, 1963. Since then, mutual exchanges have been developed across a wide variety of fields including culture, economy, and education over the last 45 years. The Hyogo Friendship Mission has taken this as an opportunity to participate in commemorative events in Washington and to celebrate the last 45 years with her citizens.


The State of Washington and Hyogo Prefecture share the belief that, as partners in the 21st century of global exchange, it is important to further cooperate with the international society in addressing common issues and threats to all humanity, such as infectious and other types of diseases, large-scale disasters, environmental problem, and terrorism. The State of Washington and Hyogo Prefecture also recognize that international exchange starts on a person-to-person grassroots level, and such economic, cultural, educational, environmental and disaster management interactions, multi-layered and multi-leveled, will contribute to resolve various issues and foster world peace.

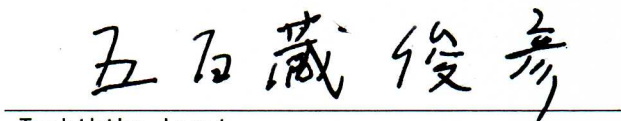
In recognition of this, in addition to the past 45 years of steady, continuing friendship, we wish for the continued peace and further prosperity of the two regions and hereby agree to further enhance our mutual exchanges according to the following fundamental objectives:

1. The State of Washington and Hyogo Prefecture will continue to promote mutual exchanges in diverse fields, including economy, culture, tourism and education. In addition, the State of Washington and Hyogo Prefecture will strongly support independent goodwill and exchange activities of local governments, educational institutions, private organizations, and citizens of the two regions.
2. The State of Washington and Hyogo Prefecture will work together to address global issues such as environment and disaster management in collaboration with other local governments around the world.
3. In order to contribute to the further economic growth of the two regions, the State of Washington and Hyogo Prefecture will continue to promote economic relations through expansion in trade and investment with the cooperation of private business communities.

4. The State of Washington and Hyogo Prefecture will cooperate to provide more opportunities for the citizens of both regions to interact with each other through mutual visits. In order to expand such grassroots interaction, the State of Washington and Hyogo Prefecture will make necessary efforts to reintroduce direct flights between Seattle-Tacoma International Airport and the Kansai International Airport.
5. The State of Washington and Hyogo Prefecture will promote academic and research exchanges, and support such activities between universities in the State of Washington – including the University of Washington and the Evergreen State College – and universities in Hyogo Prefecture – including the University of Hyogo, Kobe University and the Hyogo-Kobe University Consortium. Support will also be given for interaction between the Evergreen Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration and the Hyogo Administrative Policy Studies Association.

This memorandum of August 17, 2009, is signed in the presence of representatives of the State of Washington and participants of the Hyogo Friendship Mission.


Brad Owen
Lieutenant Governor
State of Washington


Toshihiko Ioroi
Vice Governor
Hyogo Prefecture